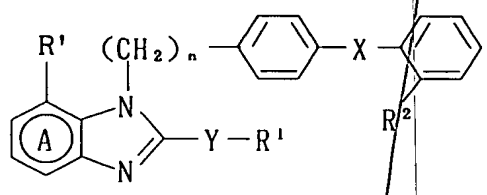
What is claimed is:

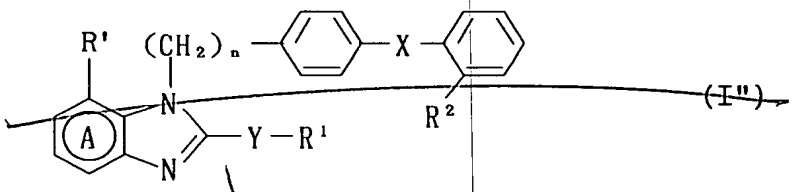
1. A compound of the formula:



(I)

wherein the ring A is a benzene ring which may optionally contain substitution in addition to the R' group; R' is hydrogen or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon residue; R^2 is a group capable of forming an anion or a group convertible thereinto; X is a direct bond or a spacer having an atomic length of two or less between the phenylene group and the phenyl group; R' is carboxyl, an ester thereof, an amide thereof or a group capable of forming an anion or convertible to an anion; Y is -O-, $-S(O)_m-$ or $-N(R^4)-$ wherein m is an integer of 0, 1 or 2 and R^4 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl group; and n is an integer of 1 or 2; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of according to claim 1, which is a compound of the formula:



(I")

wherein the ring A is a benzene ring which may optionally contain substitution in addition to the R' group; R' is hydrogen or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon residue; R^2 is a group capable of forming an anion or a group convertible thereinto; X is a direct bond or a spacer having an atomic length of two or less between the

phenylene group and the phenyl group; R^6 is carboxyl, an ester thereof or an amide thereof; Y is $-O-$, $-S(O)_m-$ or $-N(R^4)-$ wherein m is an integer of 0, 1 or 2 and R^4 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl group; and n is an integer of 1 or 2; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or aralkyl group.

4. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, or cycloalkyl group, which may be substituted with hydroxyl, an optionally substituted amino group, halogen or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy group.

5. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is a lower (C_{1-5}) alkyl or lower (C_{2-5}) alkenyl group optionally substituted with hydroxyl, an amino group, halogen or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy group.

6. A compound according to claim 4, wherein the alkyl is a lower alkyl group having 1 to about 8 carbon atoms, which may be straight or branched.

7. A compound according to claim 6, wherein the lower alkyl group is unsubstituted or substituted with hydroxyl, an optionally substituted amino group, halogen or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy group.

8. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is a lower alkyl group having 1 to about 8 carbon atoms.

9. A compound according to claim 3, wherein the aryl group is phenyl which may be substituted with halogen, nitro, lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy, or lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl.

10. A compound according to claim 3, wherein the aralkyl group is phenyl-lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl which may be substituted with

halogen, nitro, lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy, or lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl.

11. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is carboxyl, tetrazolyl, trifluoromethanesulfonic amide, phosphoric acid, sulfonic acid, cyano, or lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxycarbonyl, which may be protected with an optionally substituted lower alkyl group or an acyl group.

12. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is a tetrazolyl group optionally protected with optionally substituted lower alkyl or acyl, a carboxyl group optionally protected with optionally substituted lower alkyl, or trifluoromethanesulfonic amide.

13. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is a tetrazolyl group.

14. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R' is a group having the formula: -CO-D' wherein D' is hydroxyl, optionally substituted amino or optionally substituted alkoxy.

15. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R' is a group having the formula: -CO-D' wherein D' is hydroxyl or optionally substituted alkoxy.

16. A compound according to claim 15, wherein D' is hydroxyl, a lower (C_{1-6}) alkoxy group optionally substituted with hydroxyl, optionally substituted amino, halogen, lower (C_{1-6}) alkoxy, lower (C_{1-6}) alkylthio or optionally substituted dioxolenyl on the alkyl moiety, or a group having the formula: $-OCH(R^7)OCOR^8$ wherein R^7 is hydrogen, straight or branched lower alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or cycloalkyl having 5 to 7 carbon atoms and R^8 is straight or branched lower alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, straight or branched lower alkenyl having 2 to about 8 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl having 5 to 7 carbon atoms, lower (C_{1-3}) alkyl which is substituted with optionally substituted aryl or cycloalkyl having 5 to 7 carbon atoms,

lower (C_{2-3}) alkenyl which is substituted with optionally substituted aryl or cycloalkyl having 5 to 7 carbon atoms, optionally substituted aryl, straight or branched lower alkoxy having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, straight or branched lower alkenyloxy having 2 to about 8 carbon atoms, cycloalkyloxy having 5 to 7 carbon atoms, lower (C_{1-3}) alkoxy which is substituted with optionally substituted aryl or cycloalkyl having 5 to 7 carbon atoms, lower (C_{2-3}) alkenyloxy which is substituted with optionally substituted aryl or cycloalkyl having 5 to 7 carbon atoms, or optionally substituted aryloxy.

17. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R' is a group capable of forming an anion or convertible thereinto either chemically or under biological and/or physiological conditions.

18. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R' is a group capable of forming the residue: $-COO^-$ or convertible thereinto.

19. A compound according to claim 15, wherein D' is hydroxyl, a lower (C_{1-6}) alkoxy group optionally substituted with hydroxyl, lower (C_{1-6}) alkoxy or optionally substituted dioxolenyl on the alkyl moiety, a lower (C_{2-3}) alkenyloxy optionally substituted with optionally substituted aryl on the alkenyl moiety, or a group having the formula: $-OCH(R^7)OCOR^8$ wherein R^7 is hydrogen, or straight or branched lower alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and R^8 is straight or branched lower alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl having 5 to 7 carbon atoms, lower (C_{1-3}) alkyl which is substituted with optionally substituted aryl or cycloalkyl having 5 to 7 carbon atoms, optionally substituted aryl, straight or branched lower alkoxy having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyloxy having 5 to 7 carbon atoms, lower (C_{1-3}) alkoxy which is substituted with optionally substituted aryl or cycloalkyl having 5 to 7 carbon atoms, or optionally substituted aryloxy.

20. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R' is carboxyl or a salt or anion thereof.

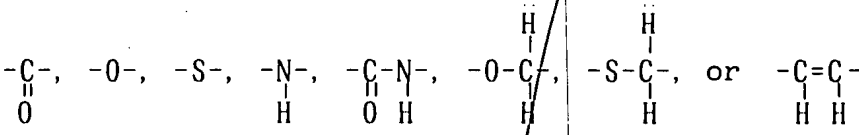
21. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R' is a group having the formula: $-CO-OCH(R^7)OCOR^8$ wherein R^7 is hydrogen or straight or branched lower alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and R^8 is straight or branched lower alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl having 5 to 7 carbon atoms, optionally substituted phenyl, straight or branched lower alkoxy having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyloxy having 5 to 7 carbon atoms.

22. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R' is a tetrazolyl group optionally protected with optionally substituted lower alkyl or acyl, trifluoromethanesulfonic amide, phosphoric acid or sulfonic acid.

23. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the ring A is a benzene ring which may contain, in addition to the R' group, a substituent being selected from the group consisting of halogen nitro, cyano, optionally substituted amino, a group having the formula: $-W-R'^3$ wherein W is a chemical bond, -O-, -S-, or $-\overset{\overset{O}{\|}}{C}-$, and R'^3 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted lower alkyl group, a group having the formula: $-(CH_2)_p-CO-D$ wherein D is hydrogen, hydroxyl, optionally substituted amino, or optionally substituted alkoxy, and p is 0 or 1, tetrazolyl optionally protected with an optionally substituted lower alkyl group or an acyl group, trifluoromethanesulfonic amide, phosphoric acid, or sulfonic acid.

24. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the ring A is a benzene ring which contains no substitution in addition to the R' group.

25. A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is a chemical bond, lower (C_{1-4}) alkylene,

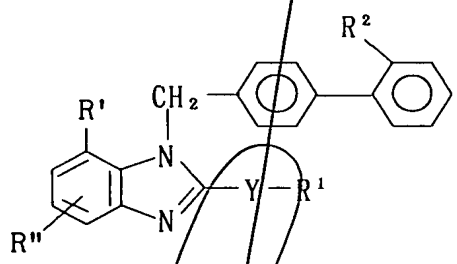


26. A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is a chemical bond between the phenylene group and the the phenyl group.

27. A compound according to claim 1, wherein Y is -O-, $-SO_m-$ wherein m is 0, 1, or 2, or $-N(R^4)-$ wherein R^4 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl group.

28. A compound according to claim 1, wherein Y-R' is $-N(R^4)-R^1$ wherein R^1 and R^4 are taken together with the N atom attached thereto to form a heterocyclic ring.

29. A compound according to claim 1, which is a compound of the formula (I'):



(I')

wherein R^1 is lower (C_{1-5}) alkyl optionally substituted with hydroxyl, amino, halogen, or a lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy group; R' is -CO-D' wherein D' is hydroxyl, amino, N-lower (C_{1-4}) alkylamino, N,N-dilower (C_{1-4}) alkyl amino, or lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy optionally substituted with hydroxyl, amino, halogen, lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy, lower (C_{2-6}) alkanoyloxy or 1-lower (C_{1-6}) alkoxycarbonyloxy on the alkyl moiety, or tetrazolyl optionally protected with an optionally substituted lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl or acyl group; R^2 is tetrazolyl

optionally protected with an optionally substituted lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl or acyl group, or carboxyl optionally protected with an optionally substituted lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl group; R" is hydrogen, halogen, lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl, lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy, nitro or -CO-D" wherein D" is hydroxyl or lower (C_{1-2}) alkoxy optionally substituted with hydroxyl, lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy, lower (C_{2-6}) alkanoyloxy or 1-lower (C_{1-6}) alkoxycarbonyloxy on the alkyl moiety, or amino optionally substituted with lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl; Y is -O-, -S-, or -N(R^4)- wherein R^4 is hydrogen or an lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl group; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30. A compound according to claim 29, which R^1 is lower (C_{1-5}) alkyl.

31. A compound according to claim 29, which R^{2c} is -CO-D' wherein D^c is hydroxyl, or lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy optionally substituted with hydroxyl, lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy, lower (C_{2-6}) alkanoyloxy or 1-lower (C_{1-6}) alkoxycarbonyloxy on the alkyl moiety, or tetrazolyl optionally protected with an optionally substituted lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl or lower (C_{2-5}) alkanoyl.

32. A compound according to claim 29, which R^{2c} is tetrazolyl optionally protected with lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl, lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl, triphenylmethyl, p-methoxybenzyl, p-nitrobenzyl, lower (C_{2-6}) alkanoyl or benzoyl, or carboxyl optionally protected with lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl, lower (C_{1-4}) alkoxy lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl, triphenylmethyl, p-methoxybenzyl or p-nitrobenzyl.

33. A compound according to claim 29, which R" is hydrogen, lower (C_{1-4}) alkyl, or halogen.

34. A compound according to claim 29, which R" is hydrogen.

35. A compound according to claim 29, which Y is -O-.

36. A compound according to claim 1, which is ethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

37. A compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid or a pro-drug thereof.

38. A compound according to claim 37, which is 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

39. A compound according to claim 1, which is ethyl 2-propoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

40. A compound according to claim 1, which is 2-propoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

41. A compound according to claim 1, which is ethyl 2-methylthio-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

42. A compound according to claim 1, which is ethyl 2-ethylthio-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

43. A compound according to claim 1, which is ethyl 2-propylthio-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

44. A compound according to claim 1, which is 2-methylthio-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-

carboxylic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

45. A compound according to claim 1, which is 2-ethylthio-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

46. A compound according to claim 1, which is 2-propylthio-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

47. A compound according to claim 1, which is methyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

48. A compound according to claim 1, which is ethyl 2-ethylamino-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-benzimidazole-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

49. A compound according to claim 1, which is ethyl 2-propylamino-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

50. A compound according to claim 1, which is pivaloyloxymethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

51. A compound according to claim 1, which is methyl 2-methoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

52. A compound according to claim 1, which is 2-methoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

53. A compound according to claim 1, which is 2-ethylamino-

1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

54. A compound according to claim 1, which is 2-propylamino-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

55. A compound according to claim 1, which is (5-methyl-2-oxo-1,3-dioxolen-4-yl)methyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)-biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

56. A compound according to claim 1, which is acetoxymethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

57. A compound according to claim 1, which is propionyloxymethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

58. A compound according to claim 1, which is butyryloxymethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

59. A compound according to claim 1, which is isobutyryloxymethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]-methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

60. A compound according to claim 1, which is 1-(ethoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]-methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

61. A compound according to claim 1, which is 1-acetoxy-

ethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

62. A compound according to claim 1, which is 1-(isopropoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)-biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

63. A compound according to claim 1, which is cyclohexyl-carbonyloxymethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]-methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

64. A compound according to claim 1, which is benzoyloxy-methyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4- yl]methyl]-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

65. A compound according to claim 1, which is (E)-cinnamoyloxymethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

66. A compound according to claim 1, which is cyclopentyl-carbonyloxymethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]-methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

67. A compound according to claim 1, which is pivaloyloxy-methyl 2-ethylamino-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

68. A compound according to claim 1, which is 1-(cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy)ethyl 2-ethylamino-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

69. A compound according to claim 1, which is 1-(cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy)ethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)-biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

70. A stable crystal of 1-(cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy)ethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)-biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]benzimidazole-7-carboxylate.

71. A stable crystal according to claim 70, which has approximately the following lattice spacings:

3.5	angstrom;	middle
3.7	angstrom;	weak
3.8	angstrom;	middle
4.0	angstrom;	middle
4.1	angstrom;	weak
4.3	angstrom;	weak
4.4	angstrom;	middle
4.6	angstrom;	middle
4.8	angstrom;	middle
5.1	angstrom;	middle
5.2	angstrom;	weak
6.9	angstrom;	weak
7.6	angstrom;	weak
8.8	angstrom;	middle
9.0	angstrom;	strong
15.9	angstrom;	weak.

72. A pharmaceutical composition for antagonizing angiotensin II which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in admixture with a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier,

excipient or diluent.

73. A pharmaceutical composition for antagonizing angiotensin II which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in admixture with a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

74. A pharmaceutical composition for antagonizing angiotensin II which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 29 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in admixture with a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

75. A pharmaceutical composition for antagonizing angiotensin II which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 37 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in admixture with a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

76. A pharmaceutical composition for antagonizing angiotensin II which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 38 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in admixture with a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

77. A pharmaceutical composition for antagonizing angiotensin II which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 69 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in admixture with a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

78. A pharmaceutical composition for antagonizing angiotensin II which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a crystal according to claim ~~70~~ 1 in admixture with a ~~pharmaceutical~~ pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

Claims 5-6

79. A pharmaceutical composition for antagonizing angiotensin II which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a crystal according to claim 77 in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent therefor.

80. A method for antagonizing angiotensin II in a mammal which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

81. A method for antagonizing angiotensin II in a mammal which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

82. A method for antagonizing angiotensin II in a mammal which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 29 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

83. A method for antagonizing angiotensin II in a mammal which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 37 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

84. A method for antagonizing angiotensin II in a mammal which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 38 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

85. A method for antagonizing angiotensin II in a mammal which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 69 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

86. A method for antagonizing angiotensin II in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a